

image

SKYBOUND

111

# THE WALKING DEAD



Old Cliff 413

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING



**ROBERT KIRKMAN**

Creator, Writer

**CHARLIE ADLARD**

Penciler, Inker, Cover

**CLIFF RATHBURN**

Gray Tones, Cover Colors

**RUS WOOTON**

Letterer

**SEAN MACKIEWICZ**

Editor

### Previously:

Rick brought a small group to the Kingdom, for an audience with King Ezekiel. As their war planning continues, it is only behind closed doors that Ezekiel drops his act for Michonne, and shares with her his past as a zookeeper and how he rescued a tiger during the zombie outbreak.

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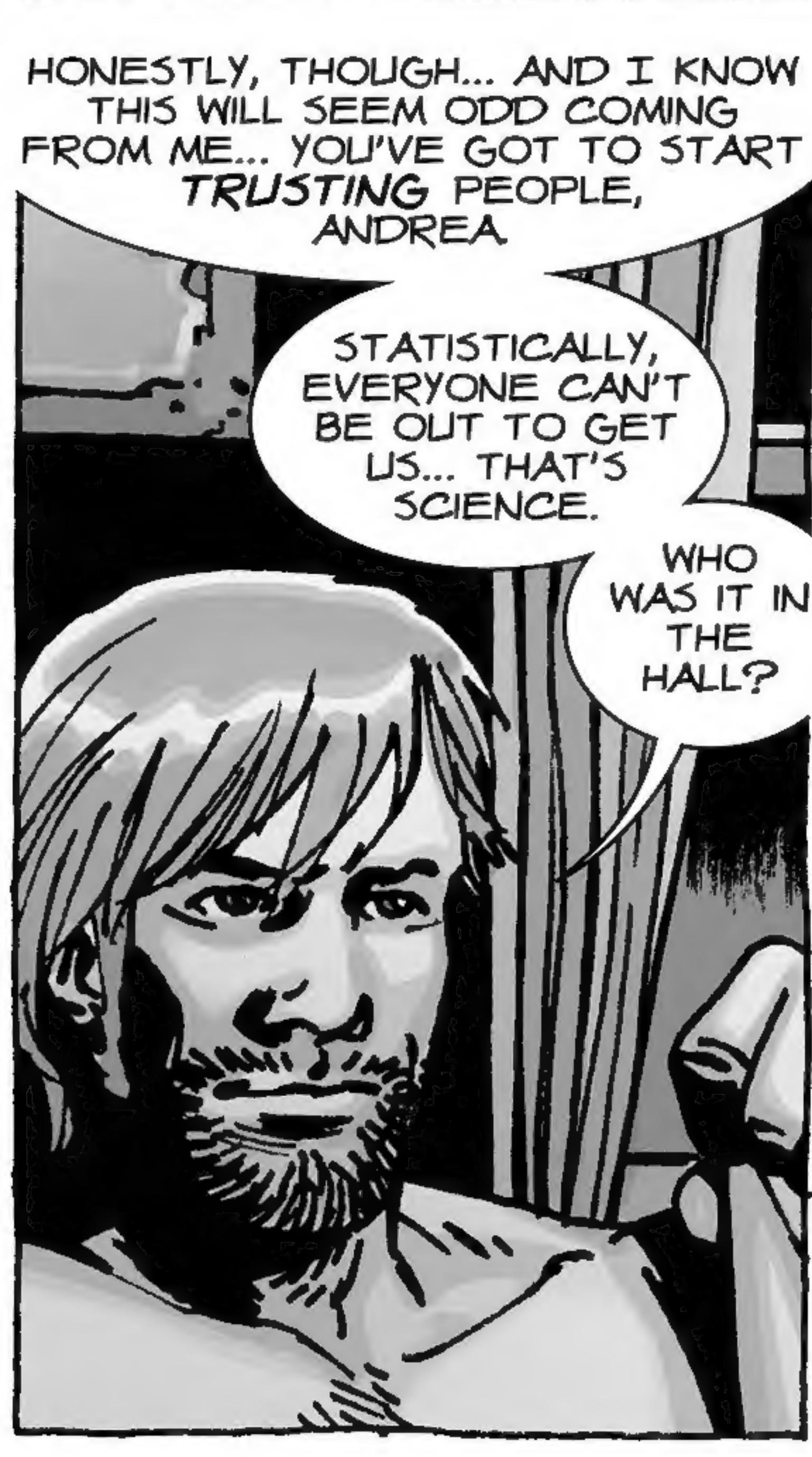


CARL'S ASLEEP.



YOU THINK HE'LL BE OKAY IN THERE?

HE'S JUST NEXT DOOR. I'M GOING TO LEAVE THE DOOR TO HIS ROOM OPEN WHEN WE GO TO SLEEP. I'LL HEAR IF ANYONE COMES IN.



HONESTLY, THOUGH... AND I KNOW THIS WILL SEEM ODD COMING FROM ME... YOU'VE GOT TO START TRUSTING PEOPLE, ANDREA.

STATISTICALLY, EVERYONE CAN'T BE OUT TO GET US... THAT'S SCIENCE.

WHO WAS IT IN THE HALL?



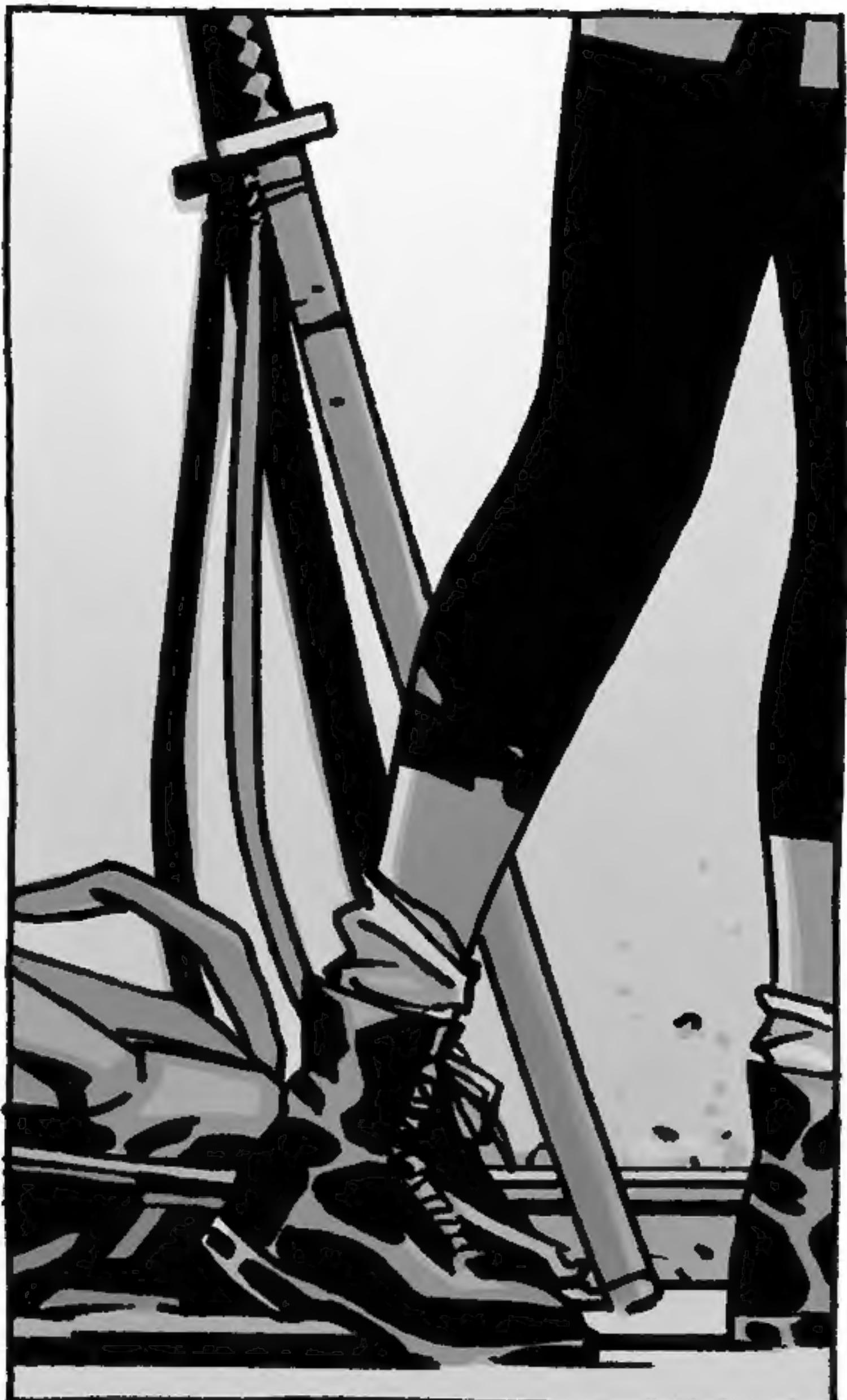
IT WAS MICHONNE.

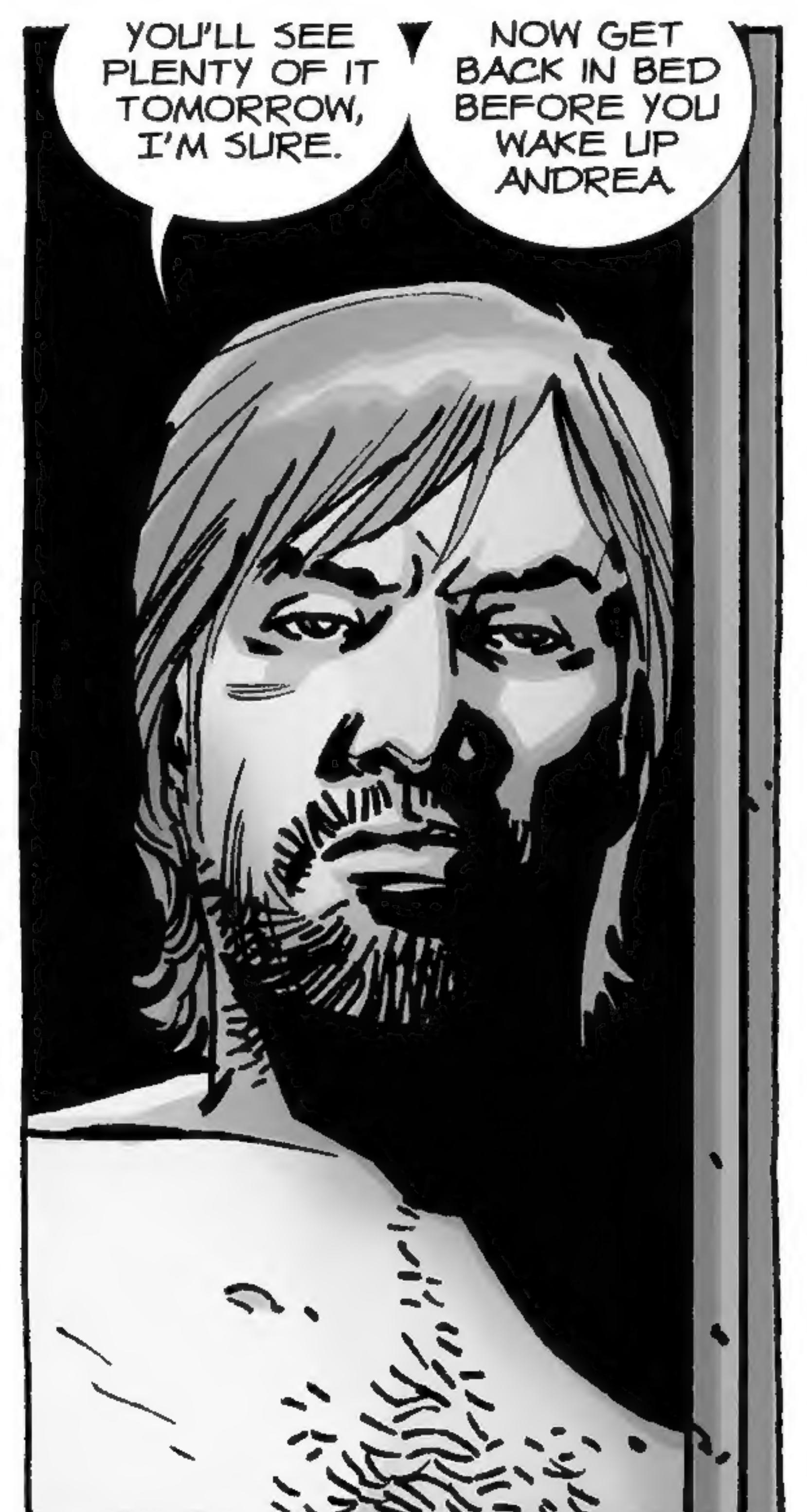
SHE WAS SMILING.

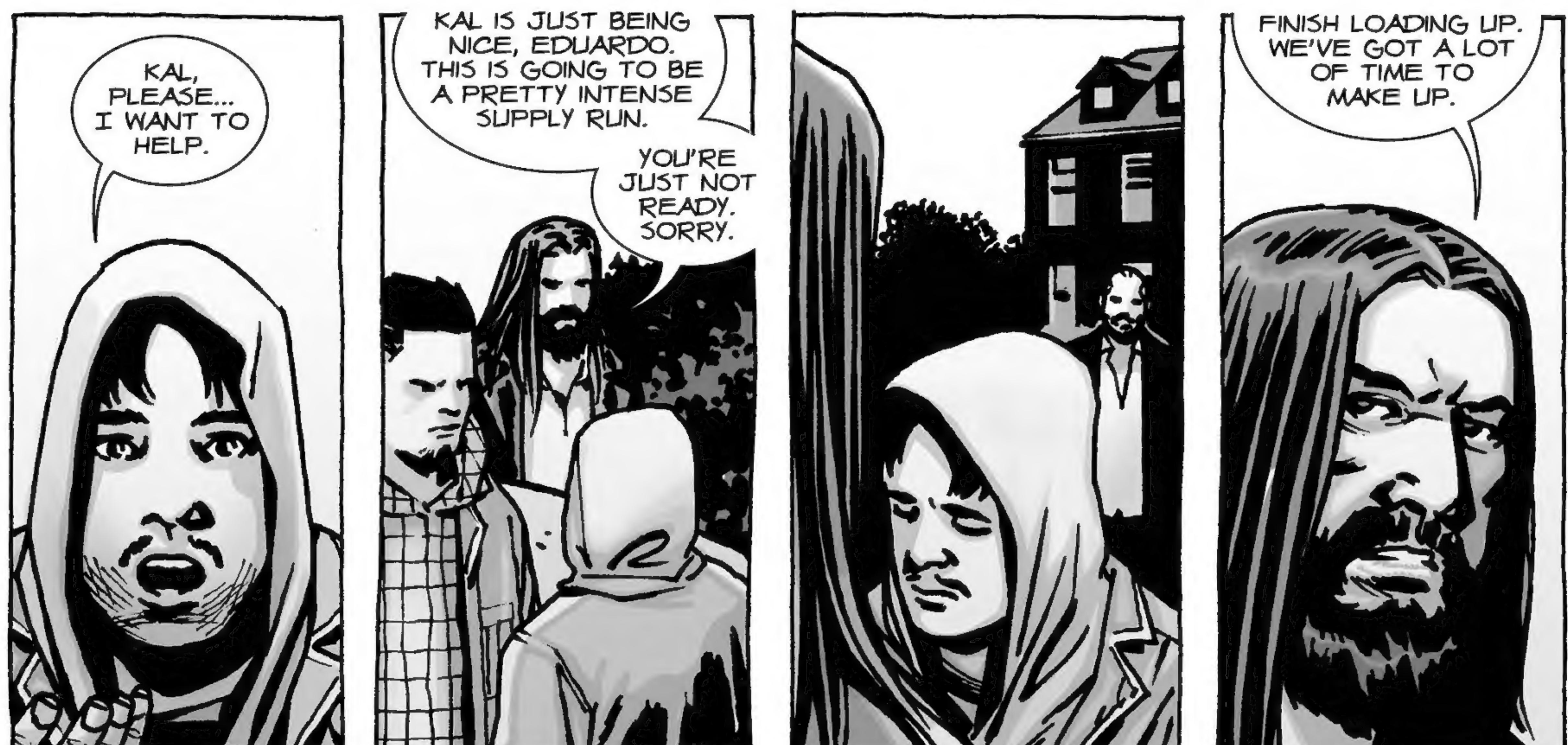


REALLY?

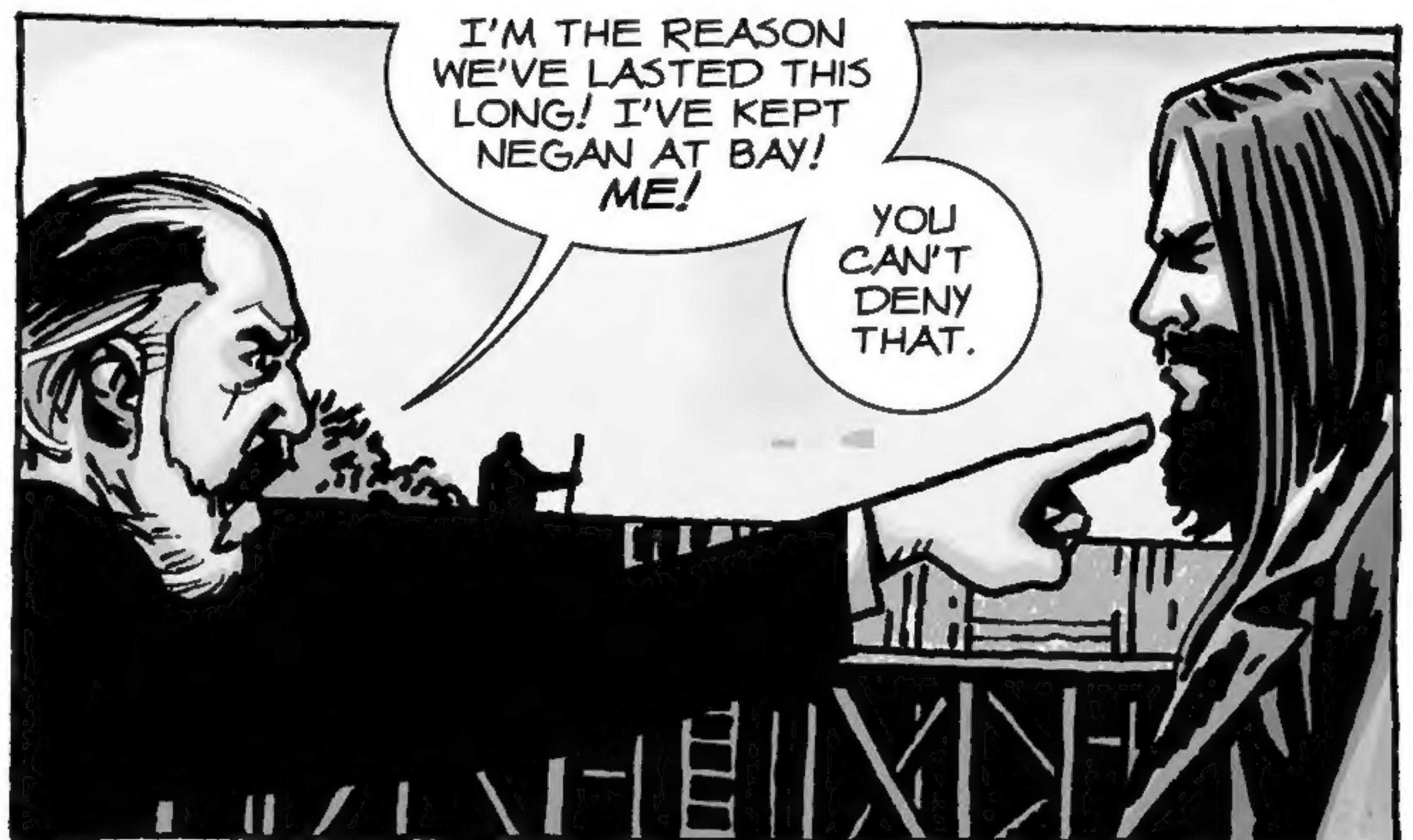
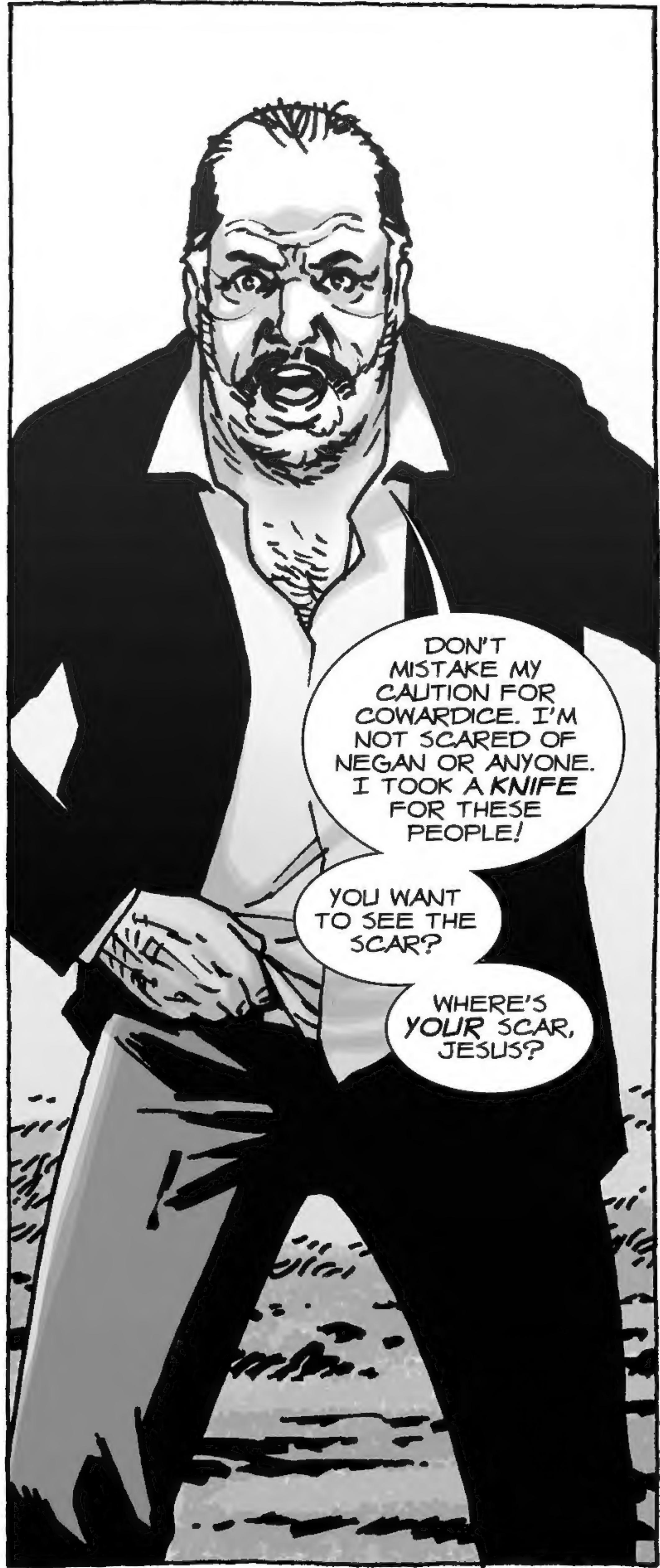
OKAY, NOW I'M WORRIED.





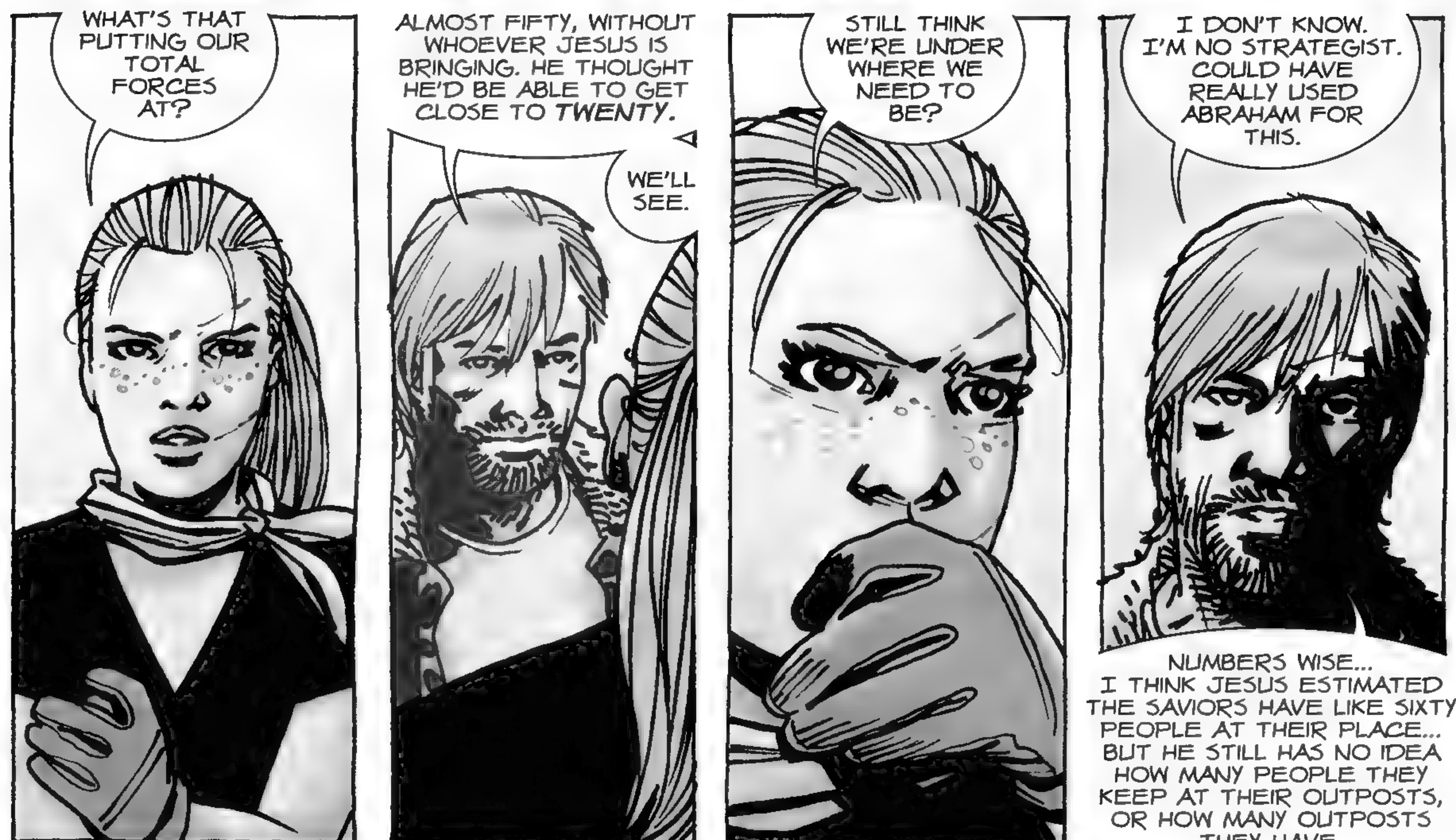


















HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM DWIGHT?

COULDN'T HE JUST KILL NEGAN IN HIS SLEEP? THAT'D PUT US AT A CLEAR ADVANTAGE, I'D THINK.



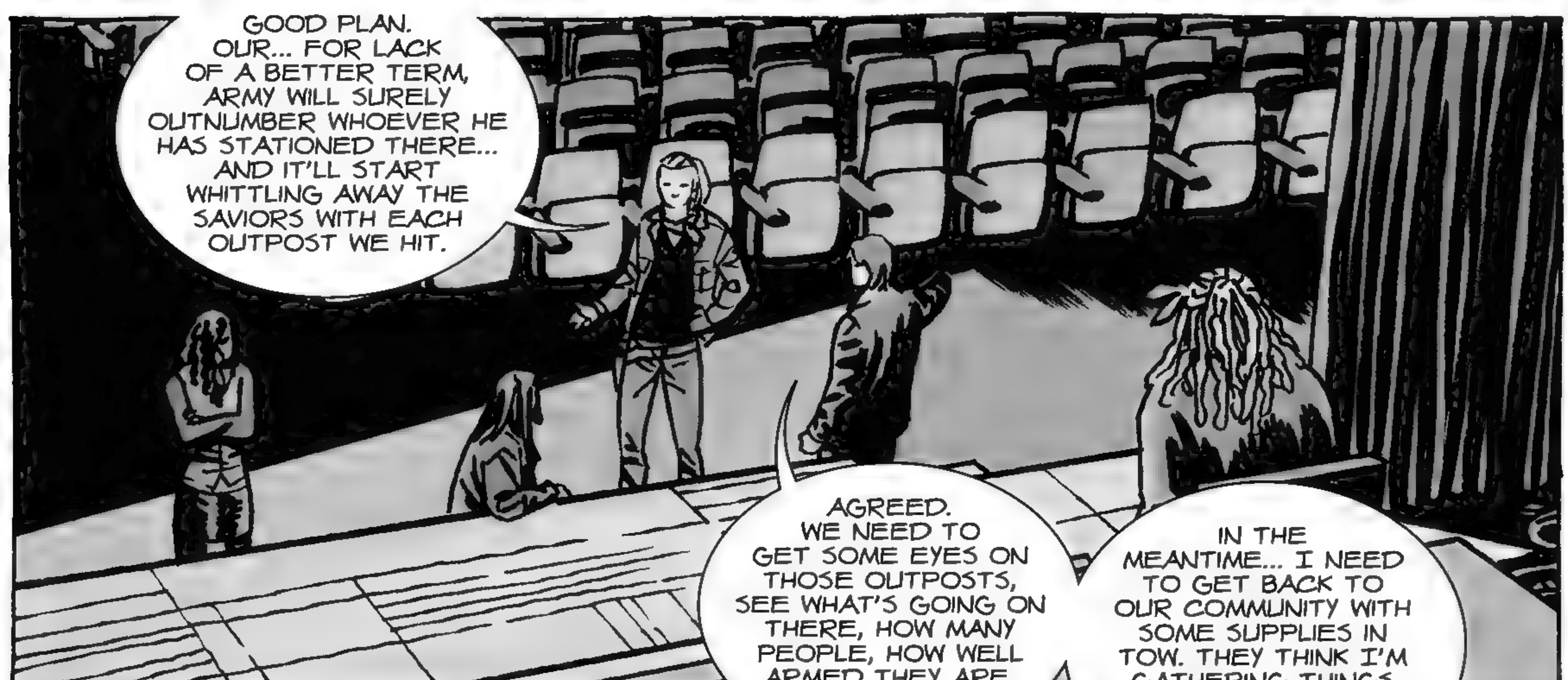
NEGAN NEVER SLEEPS ALONE, I'M TOLD. DWIGHT WOULDN'T MAKE IT OUT OF THERE ALIVE.

HE'LL BE USEFUL TO US, BUT IT WILL HAVE TO BE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.

HE GAVE US THE LOCATIONS OF NEGAN'S OUTPOSTS. I SAY FOCUS OUR FORCES ON THOSE, TAKE THEM OUT.



GOOD PLAN. OUR... FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, ARMY WILL SURELY OUTNUMBER WHOEVER HE HAS STATIONED THERE... AND IT'LL START WHITTLING AWAY THE SAVIORS WITH EACH OUTPOST WE HIT.



AGREED. WE NEED TO GET SOME EYES ON THOSE OUTPOSTS, SEE WHAT'S GOING ON THERE, HOW MANY PEOPLE, HOW WELL ARMED THEY ARE.

IN THE MEANTIME... I NEED TO GET BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY WITH SOME SUPPLIES IN TOW. THEY THINK I'M GATHERING THINGS FOR NEGAN'S OFFERING RIGHT NOW.

I CAN'T LET ON WHAT WE'RE ACTUALLY DOING HERE-- I CAN'T COME BACK EMPTY HANDED.

AND THE SAVIORS SHOULD BE COMING TO COLLECT IN A FEW DAYS IF THEY STICK TO THEIR SCHEDULE.

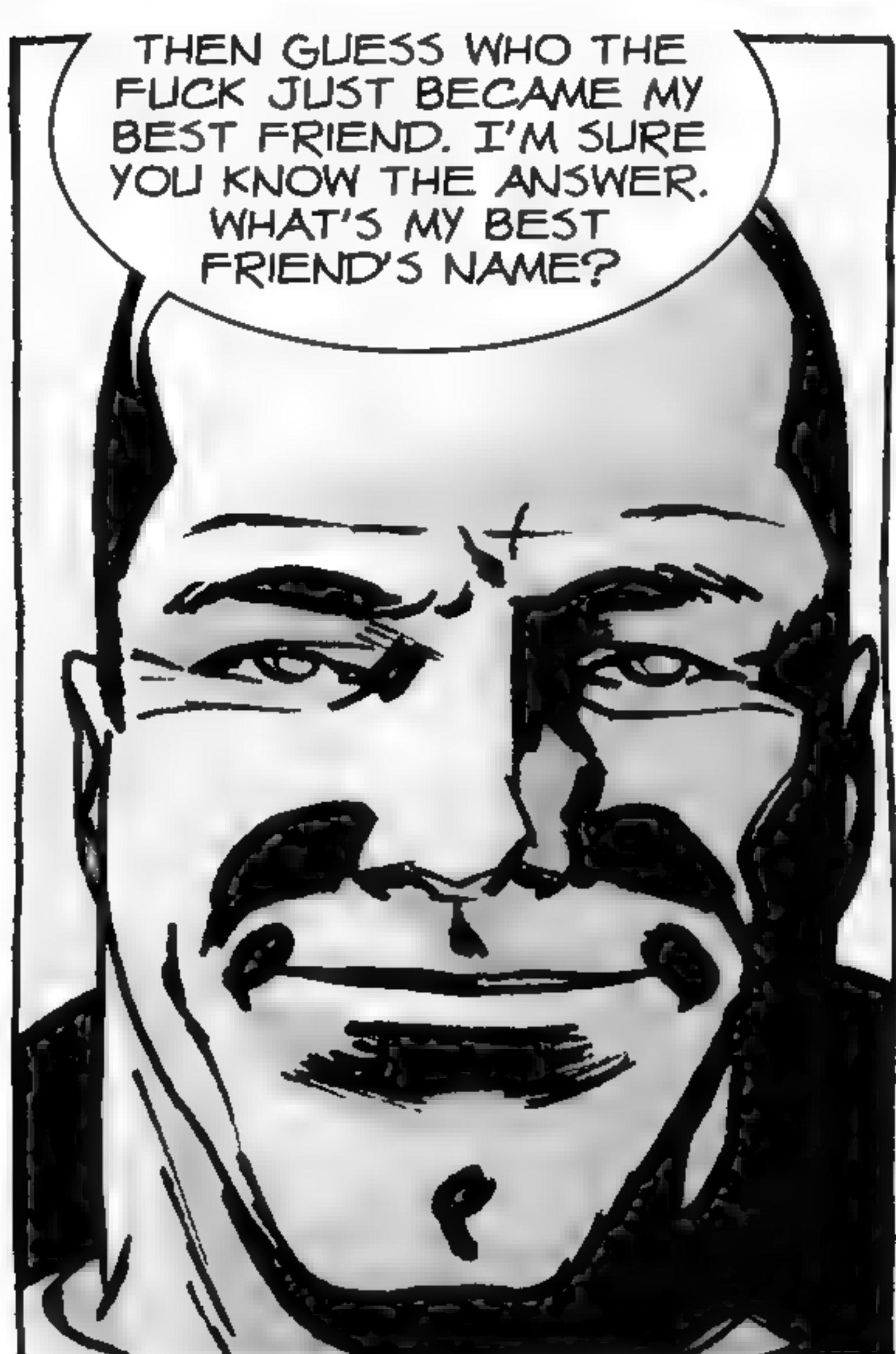
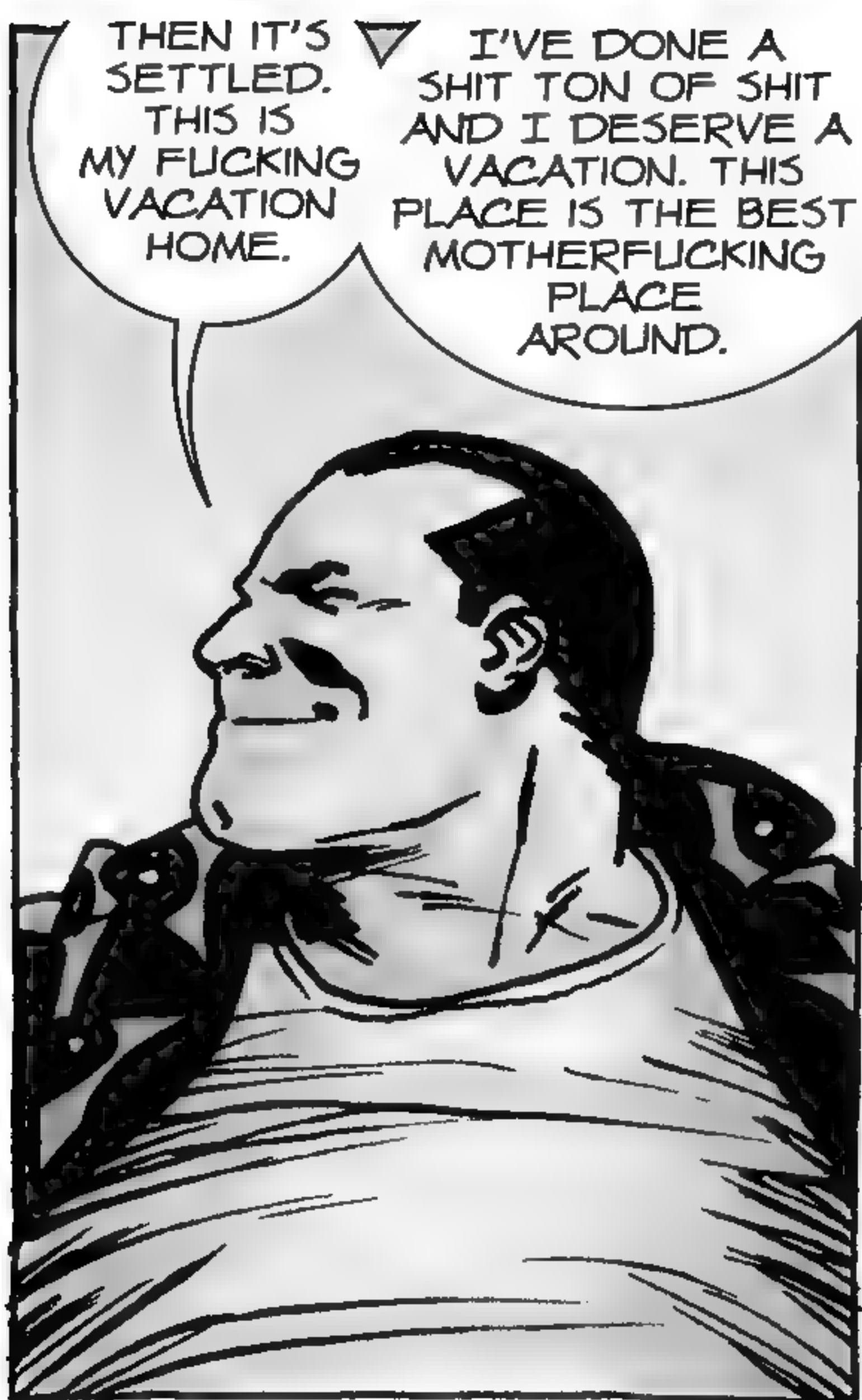




POOR GIRL'S CRYING... MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT TOO HARSH, BOSS.







ACTUALLY...  
I WANTED  
TO TALK TO  
YOU ABOUT  
RICK.

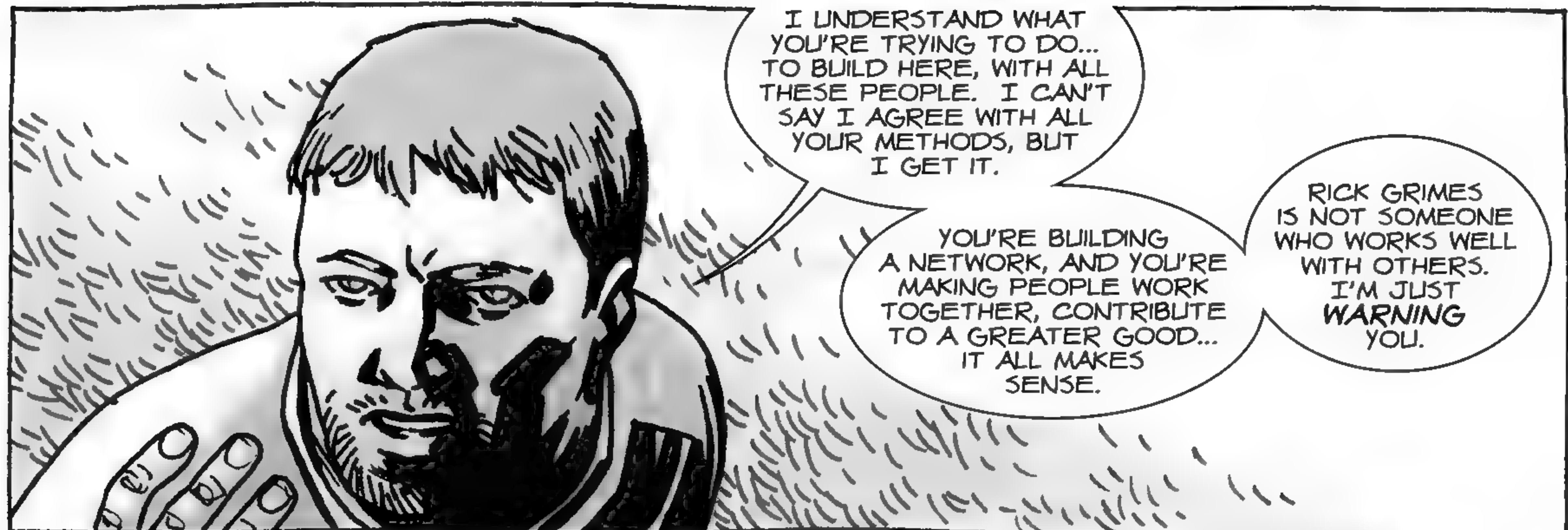
WHAT  
ABOUT  
HIM?



I UNDERSTAND WHAT  
YOU'RE TRYING TO DO...  
TO BUILD HERE, WITH ALL  
THESE PEOPLE. I CAN'T  
SAY I AGREE WITH ALL  
YOUR METHODS, BUT  
I GET IT.

YOU'RE BUILDING  
A NETWORK, AND YOU'RE  
MAKING PEOPLE WORK  
TOGETHER, CONTRIBUTE  
TO A GREATER GOOD...  
IT ALL MAKES  
SENSE.

RICK GRIMES  
IS NOT SOMEONE  
WHO WORKS WELL  
WITH OTHERS.  
I'M JUST  
WARNING  
YOU.



RICK WASN'T ORIGINALLY THE  
LEADER HERE... IT WAS MY  
FATHER AND HE WAS DOING  
A MUCH BETTER  
JOB OF IT.

RICK CAME ALONG, WITH HIS  
GROUP, AND REALLY WRECKED  
THINGS FOR US HERE. HE'S...  
WELL... HE'S A MANIAC.  
THAT'S THE BEST WAY  
TO PUT IT.

HE MAY EVEN  
WANT TO WORK WITH YOU,  
BUT I'M TELLING YOU... THIS  
GUY CAN'T NOT BE THE  
BOSS. HE'S GOTTA BE IN  
CHARGE... OTHERWISE  
HIS EGO DRIVES HIM NUTS.



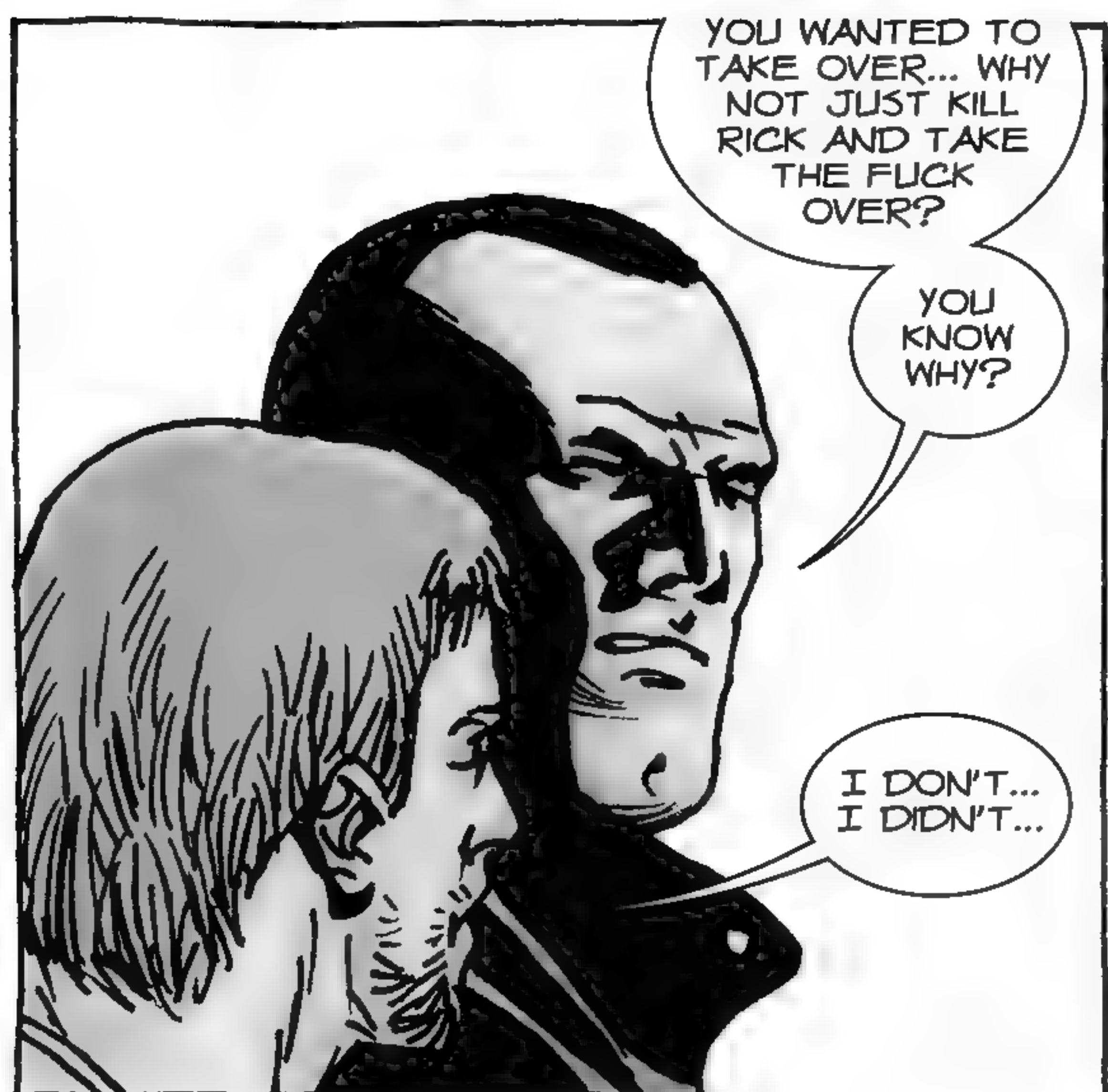
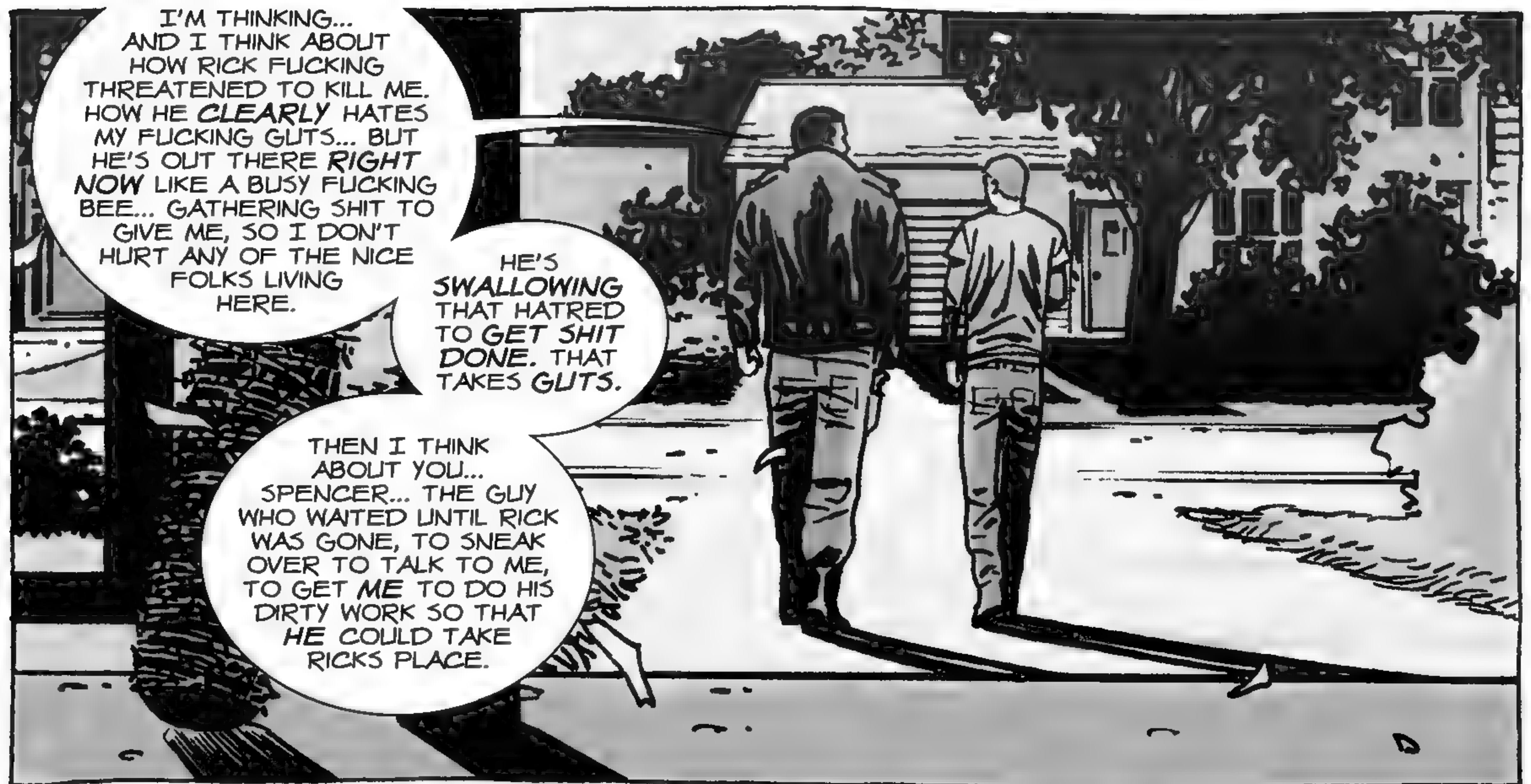
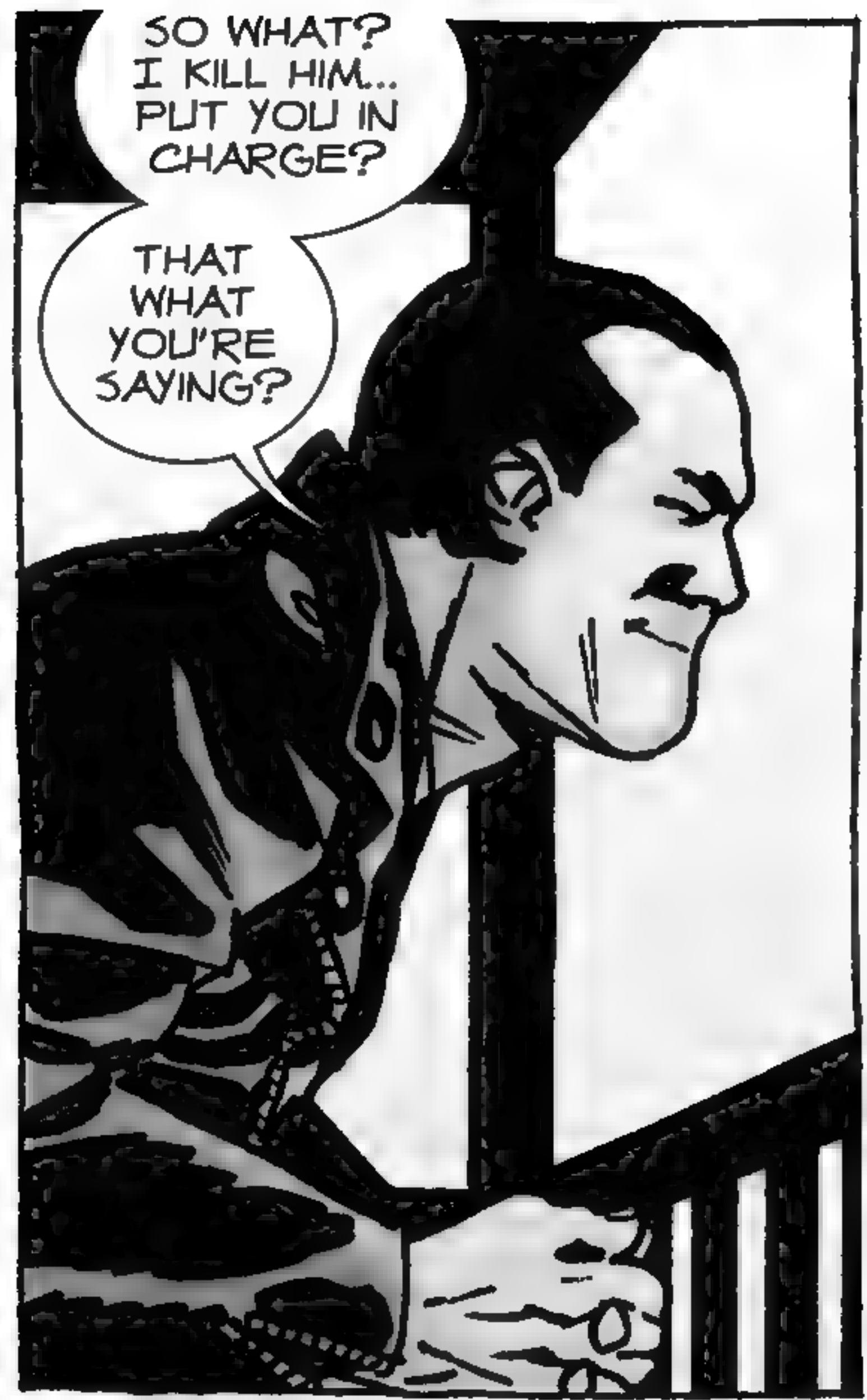
IS THAT  
SO?

WELL,  
WHAT DO YOU  
PROPOSE?

WELL... I  
AM MY  
FATHER'S  
SON.

I THINK I  
CAN BE THE  
LEADER HE  
WAS... I THINK  
THAT'S WHAT  
WE NEED...  
WHAT YOU  
NEED.









CLEAN THIS  
UP BEFORE A  
KID SEES IT... AND  
FIND OUT WHERE  
THIS ASSHOLE  
LIVED.

I WANT  
TO PLAY  
SOME  
POOL.



# LETTER HACKS

Welcome back to the Greatest Comic in the World. This issue is going out the door right before Memorial Day weekend, but we'll be plenty busy this summer. More on that after the letters...

Dear Mr. Kirkman:  
I would like to thank you for awakening this comic nerd's inner self that I never knew existed. About episode two of season one, a student of mine (who knew my affinity for reanimated dead folks) suggested I watch The Walking Dead, I did and now I have been converted to a convention going, horror con following nerd, thanks a lot. It used to be all football coaching for me because I kept my inner nerd locked unknowingly deep inside. I looked around to make sure no one I knew was watching when I picked up the first hardback trade novel of your crack-like zombie series, two years later my wife (also a teacher) and I have burned through every issue, wait like little school kids for candy for the next issue, own the original T.V. in Herschel's house from season two, made a trip to Senoia, have gone to two conventions to meet cast members, have a large collection of The Walking Dead memorabilia, dozens of autographs from cast members, and have turned half the staff at our school (and students) on to The Walking Dead. I even have scenes from season two and three on my classroom wall painted to scale. Thanks for taking up time I didn't have to spare, but more importantly thank you for forcing my family of five to come together if for no other reason than to watch and read The Walking Dead. You've also made me more hip with my students.

Thanks,  
Paul  
Dexter, Missouri

We're flattered by your passion. But if any of Paul's students are reading this, please confirm his hipness with an emoticon or hash tag or a tumblr in his honor.

You're welcome, Paul! Thanks for all the support.

Can you explain to me why on page 9 of issue 109. Gregory, upon recalling that he has already met Maggie and that she arrived with the little girl that we know as sophia, then goes ahead and asks whether her name is molly to which maggie then confirms this is her or sophia's name?

And also do i get some kind of cool merchandise for paying attention in class?

Steve

**Gregory is a narcissist, he doesn't remember anyone's names because he only cares about himself. It's a gag... it's happened before.**

Dear Skybounders,

I write to you, because like (most) everyone else that writes in, i love this here comic book. i've never written into a letters column of any sort before, so yes, I DO feel honored :) just kidding ... sort of. heh

What more can be said in a gushing heap of praise that hasn't already been said? Well, i for one am in my 40s and cannot get enough of this book.

As i tell anyone that will listen, this book is NOT ABOUT ZOMBIES! its about PEOPLE and how they deal with getting on with life after the world goes to shit! Some people seem to have a hard time with that, those people i cannot help. My desire to read each new issue is so strong that I will not leave my LCS' parking lot until i have read the issue at LEAST once. Reason being that if i happen to die in a car crash on the way home, i will die PISSED that i didnt get to read the last issue released in my lifetime. Morbid? perhaps, but it's the truth!

So in closing, keep printing 'em, we'll keep buying 'em!

Your pal,

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Eric  
ThoseBackPages

**@ThoseBackPages finally HITS these back pages! Eric's a good dude who we met at NYCC last year and has been a great online advocate of TWD and Invincible. Thanks for reading, buddy! Now get back home. This issue needs to be read again pronto.**

**Drive safely!**

Dear Sirs,

I'll skip the usual praise for the show and comics, both are amazing, enough said. My gripe is with the abortion of a game that is Walking Dead: Survival Instinct! I'm assuming you have signed over the licensing to Activision and praying you had no say at all as that game is rotten to the core. As a cynical cash grab it simply can't be beat, With such rich source material that game should have been amazing! I could go on about the ridiculous AI, the shoddy graphics or the virtually non-existent storyline, or the completely expendable survivors (not enough room in the car? Laters, no dialogue, no consequences, nothing!) but I'll simply work myself up again over wasting the best part of £40 on this garbage. If you don't believe me look up the reviews, it's been universally panned. What gives?

A disappointed fan,  
Daniel Hodgson

**Sorry to hear that. Have you played the Telltale game yet? That's a good one! We got more of that coming!**

**AMC oversaw the production of that game while myself and Team Skybound were far more active in the making of the Telltale game. I think Survival Instinct had merits as a cool way of getting more Daryl, who is a popular character from the TV show, but in the end, I will admit that it fell short of hitting the mark.**

Dear the Walking Dead

being a big fan of the AMC show i recently decided to pick up the comic. my plan was originally just read up to the point the show had gotten to so i could see the differences, but i found myself at the comic shop the very next day for more.

i just got to the part where Jesus is introduced. Jesus has been my own nickname since high school (presumably for the same reason as your character). it was kinda like watching Rick kick my ass. AWESOME.

furthermore, can i have a comic Andrea action figure with scars and optional Dale hat?

Jesus

**The second series of TWD comic figures hits stores this June, including Glenn in riot gear, the Governor, one of Michonne's pets and Penny (with severed heads!!!). Beyond that, we've some more special plans, which you can hear about first on [thewalkingdead.com](http://thewalkingdead.com).**

**I'll add that there is an Andrea figure coming in the TV show line this fall. Could a comic version be far behind...?**

Come on, Kirkman. Get back to what made this successful in the first place. Don't turn into a big-headed George Lucas resting on the laurels of his previous successes. Are you that surrounded by yes-men that you can't come up with inspired ideas anymore? A black man on a throne with a tiger? Ridiculous. You seem to have this God-complex and think "anything I come up with will be awesome, no matter how non-sensical...!" Give me a break.

Write compelling, engaging, realistic plots again. For the sake of your fans and your series. It's what made people love it in the

first place.

After the TV show came on, for the comic, you had this great idea of...Negan! Wow, it's the governor...again.

**Alright. Hold up, Ariel. We get letters like yours ALL THE TIME. Does that mean we're doing something wrong? Quite possibly. But you do a massive amount of editorializing that does nothing by undercut your quite possibly valid assessment. So let's do something different. I'm going to run another letter right in the middle of yours to show you how someone can be critical, but also substantive. Take it away, John!**

Hi Team,

I actually feel obliged to express my praise to the whole creative team at TWD after the opening five pages of #109.

It was an unexpectedly reflective moment that provided the reader with a brief and welcome respite in an 'era' (the last dozen issues) that have been oppressive and utterly bleak (but quite entertaining; I immensely enjoy reading the unpredictable Negan and his dialogue...but the man really is a scary asshole).

So back to my praise of #109: #106 and #107 moved at almost TOO brisk of a pace; each character and story thread had been allotted 1 or 2 pages each to 'check in' with the audience to advance the plot, and that's about it. TWD works SO much better when an issue concentrates on only one or two themes/story elements/characters, and a couple of the past issues read like simple plot progression.

If you just flip through the first five pages of #109, you see the devastated face of Maggie turn from despondent to wearing a genuine smile, and it momentarily pulled me out of the plot and gave me that 'feeling' TWD is so good at: to see fleeting moments of happiness and beauty despite nightmarish circumstances. Sometimes the kindness of a stranger reminds and reaffirms the reality that not everybody is evil, and they are all sharing pain; it's probably one of the few things they can all relate with!

The scene ended with a beauty bottom panel with Maggie...after Brianna walks away...the panel below shows a solitary Maggie walking back toward the shade and the comfortable familiarity of Glen and his headstone, but it seems after her talk with Brianna that she now realizes that choosing to dwell on painful memories is a dark, dreadful, and lonely existence when behind her is a new community with the prospect of a brighter future (and the symbolic pencil shading is spectacular)! I hope she chooses a path that reveals a new stronger Maggie without the love of her life (Lord knows Sophia could use it).

It was like you said in one letter hack where you were being cussed at for killing off Abraham, and you made the most valid counter-point that sometimes a character can have a stronger impact on the story by their ABSENCE! It's not like the characters are forgotten... we now witness what it is like for the people left behind to cope, which can be even more emotional than the actual death itself.

Maybe it's just me, but I feel that Volumes 17 and 18 have been kind of short-changed simply because "it's just the Governor all over again". Perhaps it is a leap of logic too far for some readers to jump, but it is possible that the anarchy resulting from the apocalypse would lead to groups of people who don't play nice.

For what it's worth, I'm still a satisfied reader.

John Misner  
Ottawa, Ontario  
...Yes the Ottawa, Ontario in Canada (the nations capital for trivia buffs, heh)!

#### A well reasoned critical assessment. Write in any time, John!

**Ok. Back to Ariel. Now John's letter was probably a good deal more positive than you would have liked. But there are legit criticisms, including the whole Governor Negan thing (what if he just started calling himself Governor Negan? Would that make you guys even angrier?), but all of which are laid out in a non-hysterical manner. Miss Manners lecture over.**

Where were all of these people when Rick's crew was searching around? Negan's group is so large and dominating that: Oh! Rick's never seen them! His compound didn't run into them until Rick's group arrived! Jesus, I've bought every issue in one form or another and have been a loyal fan from the start. I've petitioned everyone I know to read and support your stuff. But if this ship doesn't right itself soon, you've lost a loyal fan. I'm sure you'll gain a ton of idiotic bandwagoners for a short time, but if this keeps up...

And I don't follow Sina's junk, how did his "branching out" work? I told you on twitter to force him to stay in your book. It was his best (and only) shot at notoriety.

#### And now you're taking shots at Sina?!

I digress. Fix your stuff.

**No no no. Hold the fuck up. I'm going to have to run ANOTHER LETTER IN YOUR LETTER.**

Hi Sean,

*I hope all is well. Please inform Ariel that "branching out" is difficult. Life was easier when I could just spar with the Letter Hacks folks and work overtime with Robert to make sure the books were the best they could be. Now, all I do is get paid to draw dudes*

*punching dudes, Jake and Finn from Adventure Time, and hang out with Zac Efron. That last part was a lie.*

*Also: tell Andrew J Shaw that I miss him, and do an unnecessary hashtag in my honor.*

Love, Sina

#BurnTheOrphanage #LOVE #hashtag #enoughisEnough

Sooner than later.  
Ariel

You've sure given me a mean case of the reds today.

*Well, that was fun. A couple points, Ariel. First, Ezekiel is AWESOME and his strangeness is meant to show just how far this world has gone and it SHOULD be jarring and out of place. Second, Negan is like The Governor just like The Red Skull is like Doctor Doom. They're both villains, they're both bad dudes, but they're very different. Ten years down the line, if they encounter another bad guy who leads his own group are people going to say "it's Negan and The Governor all over again?!" Negan is a very different person, and those differences are going to become more and more apparent as the story continues on.*

Hi, just curious, do you guys have anything special planned for the 10 year anniversary of TWD? Special comic issue perhaps?

Keep up the polarizing work!

Greg Reed

**July. You are not prepared.**

#### SPEED ROUND!

Where are all the overweight zombies at? I've done extensive research to find that people are in fact, fat. Inclusion necessary, I do not wish to view your lies!

Jordan Peel

*There are tons of fat zombies in the comic... less so in the show, as, frankly, it's hard to ADD to big people to make them look like zombies. Keep in mind, to make those walkers look real, you have to build stuff on top of real people... you start adding to people my size, and well... we start to look a bit too padded, if that makes sense.*

Do roamers poop? We are twoish years in their time and one would think two years of feasting on human remains would fill up a belly and all that flesh has to go somewhere.

Kiersten Nicholls

*I've covered this before, I like to think they're always pooping... undigested bits of flesh... it just passes right through. Fun!*

I know you have confirmed Jeff Grimes will not appear in the comics.. but would he ever appear on the TV show? it would be interesting to watch. The Merle & Darryl aspect is a fan favorite partially because no one knows their fates... the same could be done with Jeff Grimes?

Arman Rafi  
British Columbia, Canada

Make it so!

*Man, I just don't get this obsession with Jeff Grimes. Who knows if TV Rick even HAS a brother?*

Also, I'm intrigued by the Brianna Character in #109. Will she be the new character to bring humanity to the comics like Dale used to be? Looking forward to seeing what happens there.

Joshua Willingham

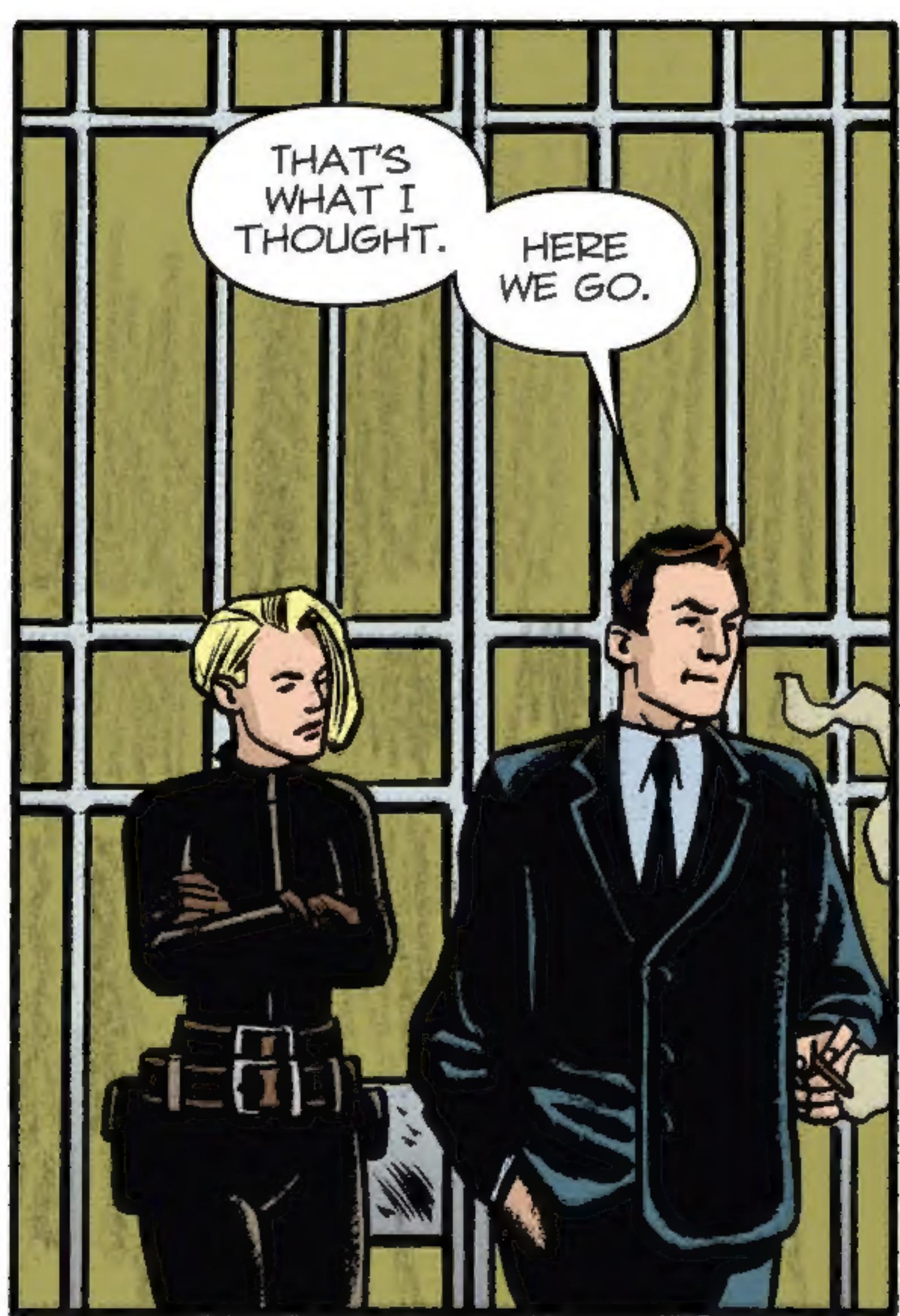
**Stay tuned! I love Brianna and her unique hairline!**

**See you all next month! Skybound will be at Image Expo July 2nd AND San Diego Comic Con July 18-21st, so we hope to see you all there. Now get to turning the page and check out a preview of Skybound's newest series, GHOSTED!**

@SeanMackiewicz

*Oh, cool... you're signing off with your twitter handle... good idea! Is that what the kids are doing these days?*

@RobertKirkman







• CONTINUED IN GHOSTED #1 ON SALE JULY 10TH •

# ZONES

